

REMARKS

Claims 21-24, 27-39, and 42-53 are pending in the application upon entry of this amendment, and independent claims 21 and 36 have been amended herein. In the first Office Action, the Examiner concluded claims 26, 41, and 43, as submitted in the Preliminary Amendment, recite allowable subject matter. (See Preliminary Amendment dated August 8, 2006; First Office Action dated March 5, 2009.) The Examiner objected to such claims as depending from rejected base and/or intervening claims. The Examiner has maintained the allowability of claims 26, 41, and 43 throughout prosecution. Claims 26, 41, and 43, therefore, are allowable if combined with features of independent claims 21 or 36 as filed with the Preliminary Amendment (including any intervening claims).

In accordance with the Examiner's conclusion, independent claim 21 has been amended so as to combine claim 21 as submitted in the Preliminary Amendment with claims 25-26, which have been canceled. Similarly, independent claim 36 has been amended so as to combine claim 36 as submitted in the Preliminary Amendment with claims 40-41, which have been canceled. Claims 43 remains allowable as depending (indirectly) from amended independent claim 36.

Because the claims are being amended merely to recite the allowable subject matter in independent form, the amendments do not raise any issues requiring any additional search or examination. The claims, therefore, should be entered even though they are being submitted in response to an Advisory Action.

Accordingly, Claims 21-24, 27-39, and 42-53 are allowable and the application is believed to be in condition for allowance. A prompt action to such end is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner feel that a telephone interview would be helpful to facilitate favorable prosecution of the above-identified application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number provided below.

Should a petition for an extension of time be necessary for the timely reply to any outstanding Office Action (or if such a petition has been made and an additional

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extension is necessary), petition is hereby made and the Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees (including additional claim fees) to Deposit Account No. 18-0988, Docket No. OKUDP0178US.

Respectfully submitted,

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Reg. No. 34,243

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